

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143624

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: LAO AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY

REF: VIENTIANE 3985

1. LAO AMBASSADOR KHAMPHAN PANYA CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRETARY JUNE 17 TO PRESENT TWO LETTERS ADDRESSED TO SECRETARY - ONE FROM PREMIER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND OTHER FROM FONMIN PHOUMI VONGVICHIT. TEXT OF FORMER BEING SENT SEPTEL. LATTER IS IDENTICAL TO THAT FORWARDED REFTEL.

2. KHAMPHAN MADE SEVERAL POINTS ORALLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, SOME OF WHICH ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN SOUVANNA LETTER. HE INDICATED LETTERS WERE REPLIES TO SECRETARY'S MAY 26 LETTER EXPRESSING USG CONCERN OVER ANTI-AMERICAN PROTESTS. HE STATED PGNU POSITION IS CLEAR THAT PRESENT AID STRUCTURE CANNOT CONTINUE IN CURRENT CONTEXT, SINCE IN EYES OF EVERY-ONE INCLUDING ,ATHET LAO AID INTERFERES IN LAOTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND IS "STATE WITHIN A STATE" AS PL SAYS. US AID HAS ONLY BENEFITTED MINORITY.

3. DEMONSTRATIONS WERE EXPRESSION OF PUBLIC OPINION, ALBEIT
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IN SOMETIMES DISORDERLY FASHION. HE NOTED SUCH DEMONSTRA-

TIONS HAPPENED EVERYWHERE AND CITED JAPAN, THAILAND, INDONESIA AS EXAMPLES. HE SAID AFTER YEARS OF WAR THEY SHOULD COME AS NO SURPRISE TO USG.

4. KHAMPHAN STATED PGNU USED EVERY MEANS TO RESOLVE SITUATION AS PEACEFULLY AS POSSIBLE. CHARGE CHAPMAN HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER WHENEVER REQUESTED. UNFORTUNATELY, ON TWO OCCASIONS CHARGE HAD THREATENED BREAK IN RELATIONS, "A REGRETTABLE ACT" PARTICULARLY SINCE NEVER HAS THIS QUESTION ARISEN BEFORE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. KHAMPHAN ALSO CLAIMED CHARGE HAS "EXAGGERATED" SITUATION, SINCE AGREEMENT WAS NOW SIGNED ENDING TEMPORARY PERIOD OF AGITATION.

5. KHAMPHAN CONCLUDED THAT PGNU ONLY WISHES TO REMOVE ORGANIZATIONS WHICH NOT COMPATIBLE WITH CURRENT SITUATION AND THAT AMERICAN AID WILL BE ACCEPTED IN APPROPRIATE FORM IF USG WILLING TO CONTINUE IT. HE SAID WAR IS ENDED AND PAGE OF HISTORY TURNED, LAOS WANTS PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. LAOS DOES NOT WANT TO ISOLATE ITSELF IN POLITICAL "GHETTO".

6. AFTER EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR LETTER, DEPUTY SECRETARY IN REPLY NOTED OUR CONCERN THAT EVEN AFTER AGREEMENT, HARASSMENT OF OUR MISSION HAS CONTINUED. HE HOPED AMBASSADOR COULD CONVEY THIS CONCERN TO PREMIER AND FONMIN, WHO IN ANY CASE WERE WELL AWARE OF THESE CONDITIONS. WE HAVE HAD REPORTS OF SUCH HARASSMENT FROM SEVERAL SOURCES. NOW THAT WE HAVE AGREED TO REMOVE USAID, WE HOPE HARASSMENT WILL CEASE.

7. DEPUTY SECRETARY ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT USAID TERMINATION COULD PROCEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS. RE REVISION OF 1951 AID AGREEMENT, THIS WILL REMAIN UNDER REVIEW FOR SOME TIME UNTIL WE SEE WHAT THE BASIS FOR NEW AGREEMENTS MIGHT BE.

8. DEPUTY SECRETARY ALSO RAISED CONWAY CASE, NOTING OUR CONCERN THAT AMCIT DETAINED WITHOUT CHARGES. EMBASSY
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SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO VISIT HER AND PROVIDE NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION AND IF POSSIBLE HAVE HER RELEASED AND REMOVED FROM COUNTRY. IF NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN PLACED AGAINST HER, SHE SHOULD BE RELEASED.

9. KHAMPHAN PROMISED TO CONVEY DEPUTY SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND CONCLUDED WITH PERSONAL COMMENT THAT LAOS WANTS AND HOPES TO CONTINUE SMOOTH AND

NORMAL RELATIONS WITH US. DEPUTY SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT
WE TOO DESIRE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH LAOS. INGERSOLL

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